



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS

Washington, D.C. 20240

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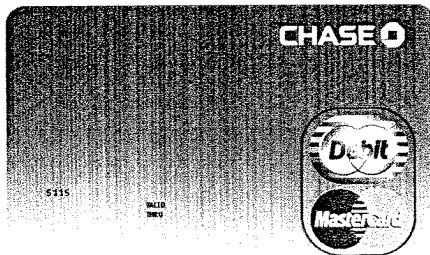
Dear Tribal Leader:

I am excited to announce a program that the Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians (OST) is launching in the states of Arizona, Oklahoma and Washington to explore the use of a debit card for Individual Indian Monies (IIM) trust beneficiaries. OST is working with the U.S. Treasury and JP Morgan Chase Bank to provide this new, optional program to account holders who currently receive their trust funds by check. Participation in the debit card program will allow these account holders to receive their money electronically, even if they do not have a bank account. (All account holders who have an account at a bank or credit union will continue to have the option of receiving their funds through direct deposit).

This fall, OST will begin a pilot program for IIM account holders living in the states of Arizona, Oklahoma and Washington. Information about the debit card program will be provided to these account holders so they can make an informed decision about their participation. Beginning on December 3, 2007, OST will open enrollment to interested account holders in these three states.

It is estimated that over 13 million people in the United States do not have bank accounts, and people are spending hundreds of dollars to cash checks nationwide. Providing a debit card to individual trust beneficiaries enables beneficiaries to receive their monies without the inconvenience of first cashing a U.S. Treasury check.

The debit card can replace paper checks and provide faster, safer receipt of IIM account holder money without check-cashing fees or the inconvenience of having to cash a check (or in some cases, several checks each month). JP Morgan Chase will provide a monthly statement to the IIM account holder regarding his or her debit card account transactions so that they may track debit card activity. The debit card can be used for getting cash, making purchases and paying bills. And best of all, there are no fees for basic services (other JP Morgan Chase Bank fees may apply if a cardholder chooses optional card services).



Benefits of the debit card include:

- Safer, faster receipt of funds to a beneficiary from a trust account;
- Accessibility to make cash withdrawals at ATMs nationwide;
- The convenience of using the card to pay for goods and services anywhere MasterCard® is accepted; and
- Elimination of the inconvenience and fees associated with cashing checks.

OST is continuing to enhance the services offered to trust beneficiaries. With the new card, IIM account holders may receive their money faster and safer and use their money more economically and conveniently. In the summer of 2008, the debit card program will be evaluated for improvements before it will be expanded to account holders nationwide.

For more information about the program, please visit the "What's New" tab on the OST web site at [www.doi.gov/ost](http://www.doi.gov/ost) or contact your Fiduciary Trust Officer.

Sincerely,

Ross O. Swimmer

Special Trustee for American Indians